

## Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes

June 28, 2007

bigforksteering.org

(Amended)

In Attendance: Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Elna Darrow, George Darrow, Chuck Gough, Mike Richeson, Julie Spencer, Gary Ridderhoff, Paul Mutascio, Steve Zabaro, Paul Rana, Janet Loranger, Don Loranger, Bruce Solberg

The Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Elna Darrow at 12:00

**Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as amended (m/sc Zabaro, Darrow G.)

**Correspondence:** Pat stated she had an email from Gary Ridderhoff resigning from the Steering Committee Executive Board as a member at large as he had taken the position of Member at Large on the BLUAC to comply with the BSC's by-laws.

**Minutes:** The minutes for June 14, 2007 were approved as amended (m/sc Rana, Zabaro)

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance remains the same.

**Resort Tax Committee:** Bruce mentioned that he has written a letter to be placed in the chamber of commerce newsletter hoping to start generating dialog, comments, and questions from the Bigfork Community. He has been in touch with Yellowstone and will be getting their cd on how they established their resort tax. He is also going to be in touch with a gentleman in Whitefish who had a lot to do in getting their resort tax started. He has also asked the places that have a resort tax to list the improvements they have accomplished. They are also working on trying to set boundaries.

**Lake County:** Paul Rana said their first public meeting went quite well. Approximately 50 people attended and the comments were good. The question of property rights came up and it was explained that no one was going to zone for you. Property owners would tell how they want to be zoned. It was also explained that the committee is a long way from doing anything toward setting zoning. They need to have more meetings and hear more from the different areas that are involved. There is a meeting tonight in Yellow Bay and 2 more in July. July 18, 2007 at Bethany Lutheran Church, July 19, 2007 at Swan River Hall, both starting at 7:00 PM.

**Vision Committee:** Sally Janover chaired the last meeting. Brett Thuma submitted a packet of photos of good, bad and ugly architecture. The main topic of conversation dealt with "Conferences". It was wondered by several members if having a conference or a series of conferences might be a way of bringing Bigfork together as a community and as a destination year round. A suggestion was made maybe to have a conference in the spring and one in the fall centering on how to build a sustainable economic and social community in Bigfork given the many changes we are faced with today. Some homework assignments were given out. The next meeting for this committee will be on July 9, 2007 at the Methodist Church at 12:00 PM. (see attached report in notebook)

**Chairman's Report:** Elna reported that she had gone to the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork meeting last week. She reported to them that we had some expenses coming up with printing the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan and church rent and since we are a non profit and volunteer group we depend on donations to help us. They generously donated \$2000.00 to our cause. We thank them.



Elna then asked for nominees to replace Gary on the Bigfork Steering Committee. Two names were mentioned and both of them had been asked and declined. This is not a hard job and doesn't require much work. Sometimes an extra meeting once in awhile or conference call so if any one would like to volunteer the position is open.

**Old Business:** Chuck Gough followed up with DEQ on the erosion mess on Holt and he was told they are not going to do anything about it as Holt is going to be widened. Consensus at the meeting was that was not going to happen.

Paul Mutascio (CFBB) stated the side walk project for the area down by Brookie's cookies had grown from a small project to a much larger and more expensive one therefore they would be not starting it right away. They will be writing grant letters and are in contact with other organizations. The new project will add 4 new parking spaces to downtown. The Nature Trail Lease requires a \$1.00 a year to be paid 50.00 dollars at one time so that was paid. The Historical Walk Pamphlets are in place at Showthyme.

**New Business:**

Craig asked to have the bylaws committee reconvene to check our bylaws for review and he has one item he would like to add to them. Craig will chair.

He also reported Windsor Lane is back on the Commissioners agenda. July 3, 2007 Authorization to Publish Notice of Public Hearing Tanner et.al. Zone Change Bigfork at 9:45: There are three agenda items for the Board of Adjustment.

Bigfork Water and Sewer announced are having their annual DEQ inspection of their waste water treatment plant next week, the busiest week of the year. Julie will be monitoring the system very closely so as not to have a repeat of last year. She has sleeping bag and air mattress in her car.

Julie is also meeting with a lawyer on Monday to make sure she is on legal ground in not allowing sewer approval at Mill Creek subdivision because they encroached on their sewer easement and erected a 6 ft concrete pond over a part of a sewer line.

Glacier Bank did not get DEQ approval before starting to build and it is being reviewed at the present time so they are not hooked into the sewer.

**Announcements:**

Chuck brought a news paper article in and let us know about the two new advisory boards that Flathead County has set up. The Road Advisory Committee which has 5 openings, one from each rural commissioner district and 2 members at large. The County is also seeking for residents to serve on the new County Animal Board. All applicants must be residents of Flathead County and send in a letter of interest by July 11, 2007 to Flathead County Commissioners Office, 800 S. Main, Kalispell or by email to [kgreen@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:kgreen@co.flathead.mt.us)

Don and Janet Loranger gave us a synopsis of their 6 week vacation all over Europe. How respectful everyone was to them and how clean were all the countries they visited.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58

Pat Wagner, Secretary